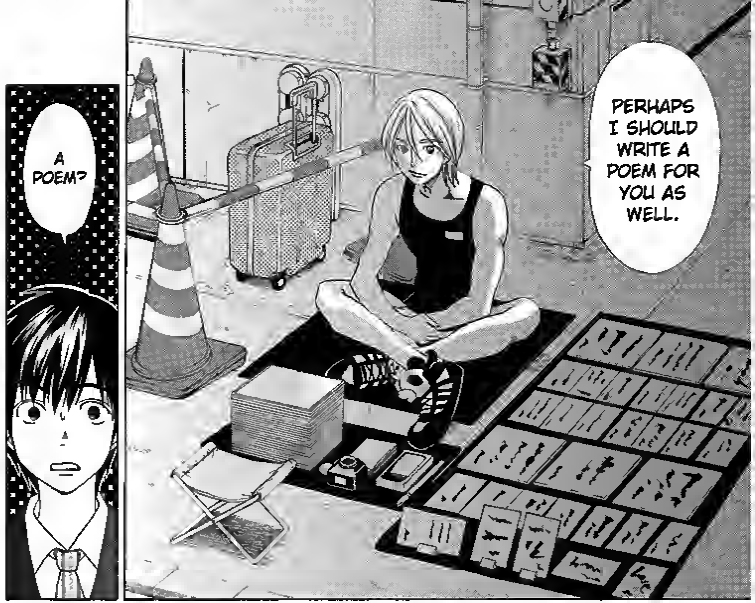
CHAPTER 22
SHIRAISHI KAEDE 5
MA-1 BUILDING
炭火焼
炭火焼
Grilled Seafood

YA HAFTA COME BACK TO KOCHI
TETSUO
SHIMOKITAZAWA STATION
KEIO
井の頭線
COME BACK... TO KOCHI?
I ONLY CAME HERE JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO
CHRIST
TCH
SO WHY WAS I ACTUALLY CONSIDERING IT?
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YA.

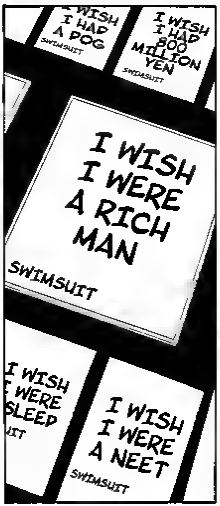
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A REAL REASON TO STAY IN TOKYO?
I GUESS I AM WORKING AT A GIRLS BAR FOR NO SPECIAL REASON
Jack
BUT WHY SHOULD I GO BACK TO KOCHI?
HEH? YOU'RE DONE CLEAN-ING?
SIR, WHY ARE YOU WORKING AT A GIRLS BAR?
HUH? WHY ASK?
YEAH, WELL, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE ALSO A MUSICIAN
MY BAND DOESN'T PUT FOOD IN THE FRIDGE
BUT EVEN SO, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK AT A GIRLS BAR
JESUS, WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
DID CLUELESS GIRL SAY SOME-THING TO YOU?
HEY!
GOOD MOR-NING!

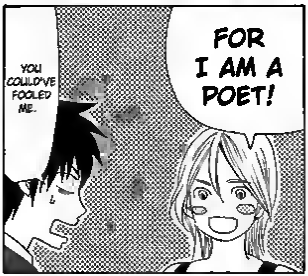
WOW!
TECCHAN!
NANA-KO CHAN!
I'VE MISSED YOU!
WAIT, HOLD ON
WE REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR THAT LONG?
MY OTHER JOB KEPT ME TOTALLY BUSY
SO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SCHEDULE ANY SHIFTS.
YOUR OTHER JOB BEING AN IDOL?
YEAH, WE HAD TO PERFORM AT DEBUT EVENTS AND STUFF.
THERE'S ANOTHER EVENT THIS WEEKEND IF YOU WANNA CHECK IT OUT.
...
ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM TOKYO, NANAKO-CHAN?
NOPE, MIYAGI
SO YOU CAME TO TOKYO TO BECOME AN IDOL?
HUH
THAT'S RIGHT.

I GUESS PEOPLE LIKE NANAKO-CHAN WOULD HAVE A REASON TO BE IN TOKYO.
SUGI HARA
QUIT MOPING AND PUT OUT THE SIGN-BOARD.
SO WHERE WERE YOU BORN, SIR?
CHIBA.
IN PEANUT LAND?
WHO WAS THAT GUY?
CREEP ...?
HE WAS WEARING A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT FOR GIRLS!
MY GOD!
THAT CREEP?
MR. SWIM-SUIT!
HEY!

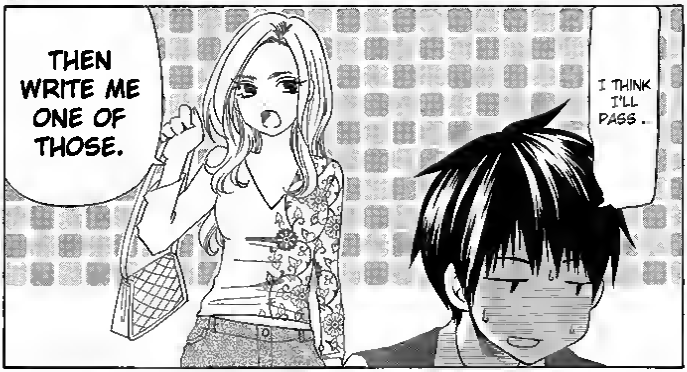

A POEM?
PERHAPS I SHOULD WRITE A POEM FOR YOU AS WELL.

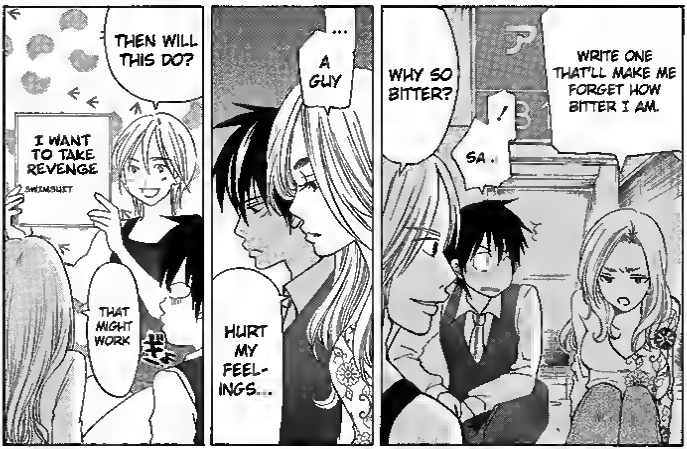
ARE THESE SUPPOSED TO BE ACTUAL POEMS?
I WRITE THOSE FOR 1,000 YEN EACH
IF POSSIBLE I WISH I COULD LIVE A LIFE EARNING AT LEAST A MILLION A MONTH WITHOUT BONUSES WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK
AND OVER-PRICED


I WISH I HAD A DOG
SWIMSUIT
I WISH I HAD 800 MILLION YEN
SWIMSUIT
I WISH I WERE A RICH MAN
SWIMSUIT
I WISH I WERE SLEEP
SWIMSUIT
I WISH I WERE A NEET
SWIMSUIT

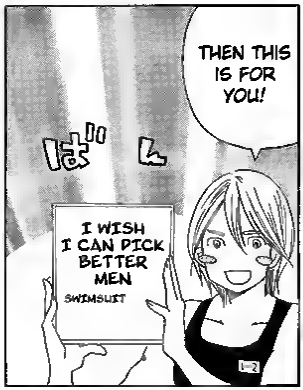

FOR I AM A POET!
YOU COULD'VE FOOLED ME.

SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE ALL THESE?

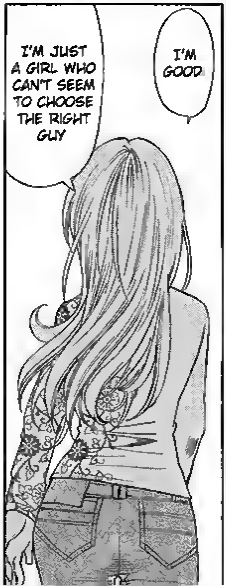

I THINK I'LL PASS.
THEN WRITE ME ONE OF THOSE.

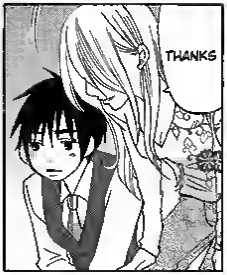

WRITE ONE THAT'LL MAKE ME FORGET HOW BITTER I AM.
WHY SO BITTER?
SA.
...A GUY
HURT MY FEELINGS...
THEN WILL THIS DO?
I WANT TO TAKE REVENGE
SWIMSUIT
THAT MIGHT WORK

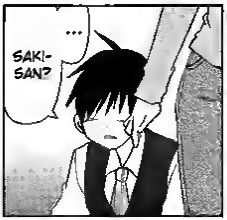
BUT I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND THAT.
CAN YOU SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU HAVEN'T HURT THAT MAN'S FEELINGS YOURSELF, SAKI-CHAN?


THEN THIS IS FOR YOU!
I WISH I CAN PICK BETTER MEN
SWIMSUIT

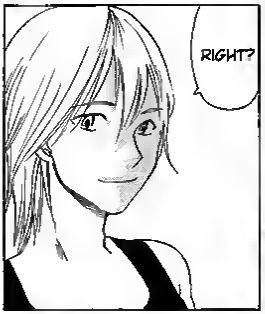
...
NO, I CAN'T.


I'M JUST A GIRL WHO CAN'T SEEM TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GUY
I'M GOOD.


THANKS


...
SAKI-SAN?

YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL...


RIGHT?

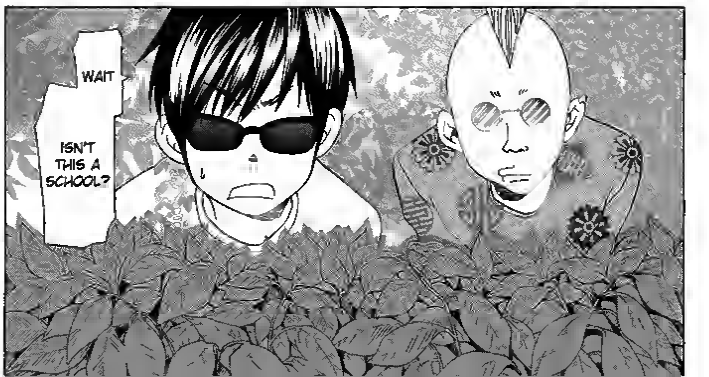
I'D NEVER WANT A GIRL TO TELL ME SHE'S MADE THE WRONG CHOICE
BEING A MAN AND ALL.

HERE
THIS IS FOR YOU.

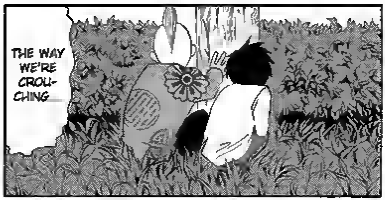
HEY, LISTEN, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TOMORROW.
EH?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

SUGIHARA, I'M NOT PAYING YOU TO IDLE AROUND!
SORRY!

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO CHECK OUT.
?


WAIT
ISN'T THIS A SCHOOL?

AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, NO LESS?!


THE WAY WE'RE CROU-CHING...

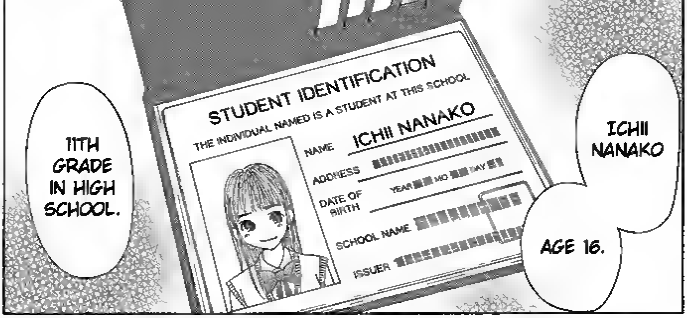
THESE WEIRD SUN-GLASSES

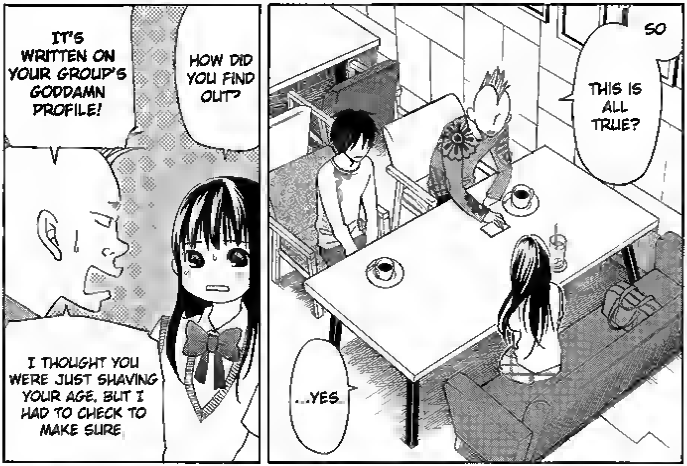
HEH?!
THERE SHE IS!

SHH!
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE INTO THIS THING!
BOSS, IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO PEEP!
WE NEED TO STOP RIGHT NOW!

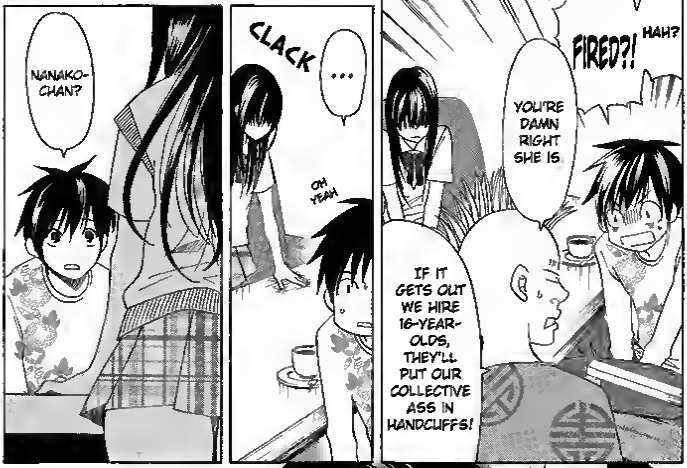
NANAKO-
CHAN?!

TECCHAN
...
IS NANA-KO-CHAN
STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL?
MEAN-ING
BOSS
GEEZ
TO THINK MY SUSPI-CIONS WOULD PAN OUT
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
CAFE LENON


STUDENT IDENTIFICATION
THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED IS A STUDENT AT THIS SCHOOL
NAME ICHII NANAKO
ADDRESS
DATE OF BIRTH
SCHOOL NAME
ISSUER
ICHII NANAKO
AGE 16.
11TH GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

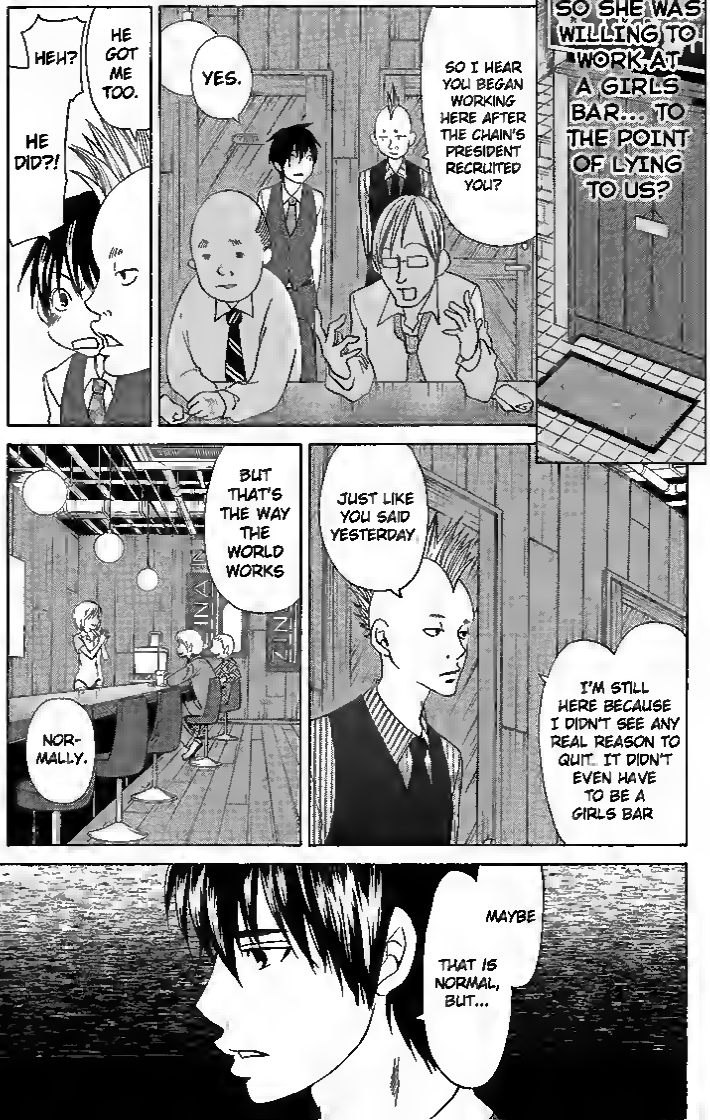

SO THIS IS ALL TRUE?
...YES.
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?
IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR GROUP'S GODDAMN PROFILE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SHAVING YOUR AGE, BUT I HAD TO CHECK TO MAKE SURE.

BUT SINCE YOU REALLY ARE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, MY HANDS ARE TIED.
YOU'RE FIRED.

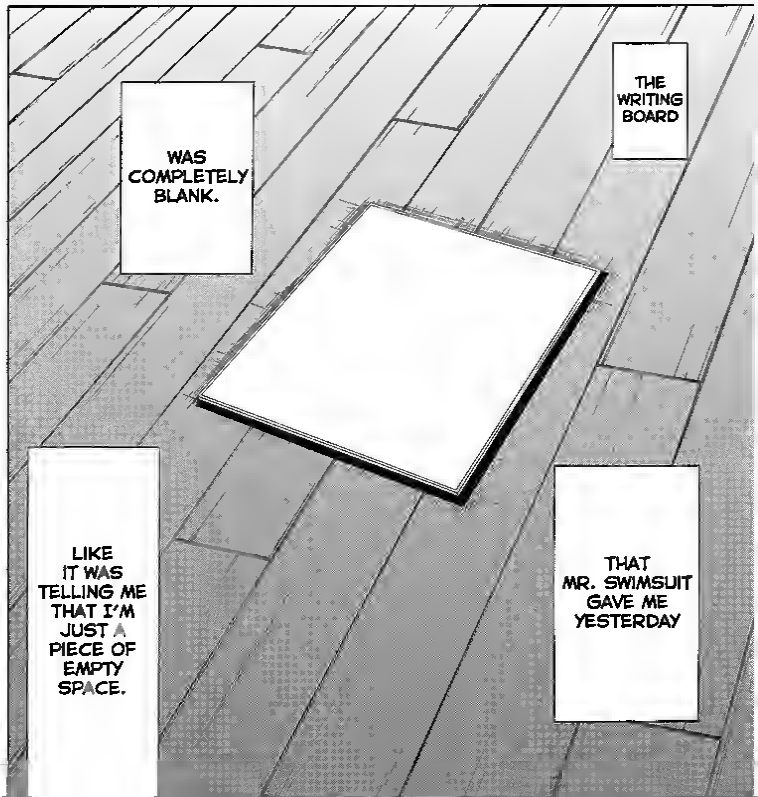

HAH?
FIRED?!
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT SHE IS.
IF IT GETS OUT WE HIRE 16-YEAR-OLDS, THEY'LL PUT OUR COLLECTIVE ASS IN HANDCUFFS!
CLACK
...
OH YEAH
NANAKO-CHAN?

I'M VERY SORRY.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER SIDE JOBS OUT THERE
NORMAL ONES THAT LET YOU WORK DURING THE DAY.
SO WHY PICK A GIRLS BAR?

...
I WAS NEVER COMFORTABLE TALKING TO GUYS I DON'T KNOW.
I'VE ALWAYS DREADED
HANDSHAKE EVENTS AND THE LIKE
SO I FELT I NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
...
HMM
THEN I GUESS ME AND SUGIHARA
EH?!
WILL SHOW UP AT YOUR NEXT EVENT.
WAIT
WHY?!
JUST TO SEE IF WORKING AT A GIRLS BAR MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU.
SUGIHARA
WE'RE LEAVING
RIGHT.
TEC-CHAN!
I'M SORRY
FOR LYING TO YOU
IT'S COOL


HEH?
HE GOT ME TOO.
HE DID?!
YES.
SO I HEAR YOU BEGAN WORKING HERE AFTER THE CHAIN'S PRESIDENT RECRUITED YOU?
SO SHE WAS WILLING TO WORK AT A GIRLS BAR... TO THE POINT OF LYING TO US?
NOR-MALLY.
BUT THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS
JUST LIKE YOU SAID YESTERDAY
I'M STILL HERE BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEE ANY REAL REASON TO QUIT. IT DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE A GIRLS BAR
MAYBE
THAT IS NORMAL, BUT...

BUT I THINK I'M...
PRO-BABLY
NOT NORMAL AT ALL...
THAT I'M A FAILURE AS A HUMAN BEING...


THE WRITING BOARD
WAS COMPLETELY BLANK.
LIKE IT WAS TELLING ME THAT I'M JUST A PIECE OF EMPTY SPACE.
THAT MR. SWIMSUIT GAVE ME YESTERDAY

東京DTED

WANT TO
FORGET
ABOUT
YOU

TOKYO DTED
CHAPTER 22

TETSUO AT SHIMOKITAZAWA STATION NORTH GATE IN FRONT OF A CERTAIN YAKITORI RESTAURANT.

KUSO IINKAI'S "JUNAI YUE NI SEIAKUSETSU."

IT'S ALMOST AS IF TETSUO HIMSELF WROTE THE LYRICS. THIS SONG STRIKES THE TETSUO INSIDE ME IN THE GUT AND MAKES HIM CRY BITTER TEARS (ESPECIALLY THE LAST THREE LINES).

IF YOU REALLY LOVED SOMEONE, YOU'D NEVER SPEW WARM PLATITUDES LIKE "PRAY FOR THEIR HAPPINESS IF YOU REALLY LOVE THEM."